

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claim 13 is the only claim pending in the application. Claim 7 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,424,032 to Ritter in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,862,767 to Hauser. Claim 7 was also rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.658(c), Interference Estoppel. Claim 7 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

***Allowed claim 13***

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form. Applicants therefore respectfully request early notification of allowance.

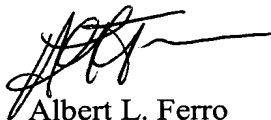
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Albert L. Ferro  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 44,679

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

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